

*Copy of letter Posey sent to
Sports Editor*

Feb. 11 1940

Dear Sports Editor:

President Tom Wilson has called a meeting of the Negro National League for Friday, Feb. 23, 1940 at Pittsburg Pa.

President Wilson is calling this meeting for the election of officers for 1940. The president of an organization has the authority to call a meeting any time and any place designated by him, unless overruled by a majority of the members.

President Wilson has operated his office during his term in a businesslike manner without fear or favor and has liquidated all N.N.L. debts and put the league on a firm basis.

The idea of refusing reelection to a president because he did not upset an agreed upon policy of a majority of the members of the league is just a camouflage for selfish interest to gain control of the league with the attending benefits of the present day promotions.

Five of the six members of the league agreed at the start of the 1939 season to allow 10% of the net receipts of games at The Yankee Stadium to whomever was in charge of promotions.

This was not a new idea. In former years President Gus Greenlee had received this 10%.

President Wilson agreed not to take this 10% when he was elected in 1939, but to turn it over to Ed. Gottlieb because of Gottlieb's efforts in securing Yankee Stadium for \$1000.00 when previously the stadium had cost \$3500.00 and Gottlieb had also saved the league \$148.00 each game as liability insurance. The league members all agreed to this except Newark, although Newark did not fail to take 10% of the league promotion they handled in Newark on Sept. 5th. This was done without the agreement of the league members.

Nothing was said of this throughout the 1939 season. There has not been one question of dishonesty raised over the Yankee Stadium promotions of 1939.

The promoter put all advance money, saved the league over ten thousand dollars, turned over sixteen thousand dollars to the league clubs in the four dates when league clubs occupied Yankee Stadium. For this the promoter got a gross of not over eleven hundred dollars for the year.

Ned Irish promotes Basketball games at Madison Square Garden for college basketball teams. He makes them money. In turn he is reported to make more out of basketball than Mike Jacobs makes out of boxing. Are the College Athletic Associations seeking to drop Ned Irish?

Mike Jacobs has made Joe Louis and Henry Armstrong a fortune. Are they ready to drop Mike Jacobs because he is a white man?

President Wilson has been in baseball as president of The Negro Southern League, as owner of Cleveland, Columbus, Nashville, Washington, and Baltimore Elites in various years. Philly Stars and Homestead Grays, who have been in baseball for over a score of years, supported Wilson.

Jim Semler of N.Y. Black Yanks would support Wilson for President if Black Yanks could handle all of Yankee Stadium promotions. President Wilson and the clubs who support him would not agree to this for these reasons:

Three promotions by N.Y. Black Yanks at Randall's Island N.Y. in 1938 netted each of the four clubs involved the sum of twelve

dollars with more expense involved than any 1939 promotion at Yankee Stadium. The league members had checked up and found out that tickets supposed to be complimentary had been sold for for The East West game at Yankee Stadium Sept. 18 1938. This game was promoted through Black Yankees office. The league owners and U.S. Government are still attempting to find out what became of tax money for the gamewhich was held for greater New York fund at Yankee Stadium in June 1938. This game was promoted through Black Yankees office.

Supposing Black Yanksterterritory was invaded. No league members wanted any more league promotions with league money through Black Yanks office.

Mr. Pompey did not hesitate to take \$300.00 as N.N. League representative at the East West Game at Yankee Stadium Sept. 28-1939. This was a gesture of good will toward Pompey and urged by the Newark owners. The N.N.L. could have used that money as others did the work.

The proposals of Mrs Effa Manley, 1st that a man unknown to Baseball should operate the affairs of The N.N.L., that N.Y? Metropolitan district is where the clubs make the most money 3rd, that an inexperienced man should handle booking and other vital affairs of the league is idiotic.

It does not make sense to have a woman, who positively does not know the first thing about baseball, tell experienced baseball men how to conduct their business, when in the first good year since 1930 all the clubs made money except Newark (the club she misrules)

The whole maneuver is a selfish one to have N.Y. Amsterdam News and Newark Baseball Club represent The N.N.L. in the East West game and other promotions because an allotted sum is given to Chicago Defender and Pgh. Courier because of their joint cooperation in years past in inaugurating and assisting in the Chicago East West game.

This allotment was agreed upon in 1933 by Greenlee and Cole the original promoters and has been accepted each year by the owners of both leagues.

Tom Wilson
President N.N. League